

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /055 W

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P 111535Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2845

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG

CSUBJ: NIGER FOOD AID

REF: A. NIAMEY 554; B. STATE 32705; C. NIAMEY 562; D. NIAMEY 4891

1. SHORT ANSWER TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
ON GON'S ESTIMATE OF 200,000 TONS TO MEET COUNTRY'S
FOOD NEEDS BEFORE RAINS IS THAT THIS IS POLITICAL
DECISION MADE BY PRESIDENT, STATISTICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR
WHICH IS MURKY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF A, DJERMAKOYE INFORMED FEB 9
MEETING OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT GON ESTIMATED ITS FOOD
DEFICIT FOR 1975/76 AT ABOUT 200,000 TONS. GON
HAS TECHNICALLY NEVER ACCEPTED OSRO MISSION FINDING OF
108,000 TON N ED. 200,000 TON FIGURE FIRST SURFACED IN
KOUNTCHE'S DECEMBER 18 REVPUBLICDAY ADDRESS TO NATION
(REF D). MORE RECENTLY, FRENCH EMBASSY INFORMED US THAT
THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN PARIS, GON APPEALED TO GOF ON
JANUARY 9 FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE CITING TOTAL NEED OF
200,000 TONS.

3. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME THAT GON PLANNED
RESURFACE 200,000 TON NEED AT FEB 9

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MEETING. IN DAYS BEFORE MEETING, ROTIVAL AND DABELL

OF OSRO ATTEMPTED DISSUADE KOUNTCHE, BAYERE MOUSSA AND DJERMAKOYE FROM USING THIS FIGURE AS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, BUT THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE KOUNTCHE FEELS HIMSELF COMMITTED TO THIS TOTAL.

4. DURING FEB 9 MEETING BOTH BAYERE MOUSSA AND ALI CHAIBOU IN THEIR PRESENTATIONS STUCK TO THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TO ADHERE TO 200,000 TON REQUIREMENT, BUT IMPLICIT IN THEIR REMARKS AND JUSTIFICATION TO DONORS FOR FOOD AID WAS APPEAL FOCUSING ON OSRO MISSION FINDING OF 108,000 TONS WMBH WHICH DONOR COMMUNITY IS GENERALLY ASSOCITBS. THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE DONORS WILL CONCENTRATE ON.

5. POSITION WE HAV TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO MAGNITUDE DEFICIT FOLLOWS THAT ESTABLISHED IN STATE 28720, PARA B-1, NAMELY: WE CONSIDER NIGER'S GRAIN IMPORT NEEDS TO BE SUBSTANTIAL BUT WHETHER THEY ARE AS GREAT AS ESTIMATED BY OSRO TEAM WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL LATER IN THE SEASON; IN ANY EVENT IT IS CLEAR THAT SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF ADDITIONAL IMPORTS BEYOND THOSE RECEIVED TO DATE OR PROGRAMMED ARE NEEDED, AND OUGHT TO BE SHIPPED FOR ARRIVAL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE THE RAINS. THIS WAS WHAT RDO BARON TOLD AP REPORTER PREUTHARD (WHO CALLED FROM PARIS) IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTON ON GRAVITY OF FOOD SITUATION, PREUTHARD FOLLOWED UP BY ASKING HOW GON'S ESTIMATE OF 200,000 TONS SQUARED WITH OSRO'S EVALUATION TEAM ESTIMATE. RDO REMARKED HE PERSONALLY FELT OSRO ESTIMATES WERE CLOSER TO THE MARK.HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOOD ASSISTANCE, AFDROUGHT, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NIAMEY00565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0106
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760260/aaaacadn.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NIAMEY 554, 76 STATE 32705, 76 NIAMEY 562, 76 NIAMEY 4891
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID, NG, (KOUNTCHE, SEYN)I
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006